BAYNES ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

March 2003

Approved by:

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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 13/03

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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 23/03

Baynes Island Ecological Reserve
Purpose Statement

Ecological reserves are areas selected to preserve representative and special natural ecosystems, plant and animal species, features and phenomena. The key goal of ecological reserves is to contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity and the protection of genetic materials. All consumptive resource uses and the use of motorized vehicles are prohibited. Research and educational activities may be carried out but only under permit.

Primary Role

The **primary role** of Baynes Island Ecological Reserve is to preserve floodplain cottonwood stands and associated natural values in the lower Squamish River valley. Associated values include significant levels of use by wintering bald eagles.

Known Management Issues	Response
Some recreational use from fishers and canoeists occurs along the margins of the ecological reserve (minor trails, fire pits).	Monitor impacts and initiate management actions as needed.
Very high recreational use for eagle viewing occurs along the eastern shore of the Squamish River from December - February. Although the viewing occurs outside of the ecological reserve, changes in viewing patterns (greater use of boats) could significantly impact ecological reserve values.	Monitor viewing activities and initiate management actions as needed. Work with local community to reduce disturbances of eagles from viewing activities.
River erosion forces have and will continue to reduce the overall size of the ecological reserve. It is possible that the ecological reserve will become too small to be feasible at some point in the future.	It is impractical and inappropriate to physically protect the ecological reserve from erosion. An alternate location has been identified within the adjacent Brackendale Eagles Provincial Park as a replacement site for the ecological reserve if needed.

Conservation

Representation		
- ecosection	☐	Minor contributor to the well represented Southern Pacific Ranges (SPR) Ecosection. 16.46% of this ecosection is protected. Baynes Island contributes only 0.03% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosection.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☐	Minor contributor to the under-represented CWHdm subzone. 5.89% of this unit is protected. Baynes Island contributes only 0.17% of the overall protected area representation of this ecosystem unit.
Special Feature	☒	Floodplain cottonwood stands.
Rare/Endangered Values	☐	
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Floodplain forest values.

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	
destination	☐	
travel corridor	☐	
local recreation	☐	
Special Opportunities	☐	
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☒	Unknown but highly probable.
Special Feature	☐	

Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	
Relationship to other protected areas	☐	Adjacent to Brackendale Eagles and Tantalus parks; complementary values.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☐	
Partnerships	☐	volunteer warden
Vulnerability	☐	Natural erosion by river, reducing island size
Relationship to other Strategies	☐	

Area: 71 ha

Date of Establishment: December 4, 1975.